



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Office of the Attorney General*  
*Richmond 23219*

Mark L. Earley  
Attorney General

900 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
804 - 786 - 2071  
804 - 371 - 8946 TDD

April 25, 2001

Ms. Mary S. Clark  
Library of Virginia  
800 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Ms. Clark,

The Office of the Attorney General has not created any significant databases related to its core business functions since July 1, 1997, so the disclosure requirements of Section 2.1-342 are not activated.

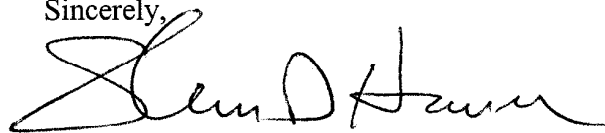
This Office uses a number of older databases to support its functions, and they have been modified and updated on a regular basis to improve their utility. Most are "case management" systems common to larger legal offices, and assist the staff in keeping track of litigation, legislation, correspondence and requests for advice, and in general managing the duties of our employees. The practice of law is still largely a paper operation. Our database systems are administrative tools that help us keep up with a mountain of records, rather than records in themselves.

Because our mission is the practice of law, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act provides a number of specific exemptions that apply to large portions of those databases. For example, the correspondence and working papers of the Attorney General are specifically exempt. Other exemptions include personal information about our employees and our clients, information about certain investigations, the legal advice we give our clients, documents prepared for use in litigation and any other information or communication protected by attorney-client privilege. The Act also exempts from disclosure any information that other laws tell us must be held confidential, and there are numerous examples throughout the Code and the rules governing the legal profession. The law recognizes that trust and confidentiality are at the heart of the lawyer-client relationship. Any request for release of information must be reviewed with that in mind.

Library of Virginia  
April 25, 2001  
Page 2 of 2

Any request for information contained in an OAG database should be made to the Director of Administration, Office of the Attorney General, 900 E. Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219. The phone number is (804) 786-2071 and the facsimile number is (804) 786-1991. In most cases we use standard Microsoft software for databases, so the information would be available in many formats at modest expense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Haner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a distinct "H".

Stephen D. Haner  
Director of Administration